Washington State Patrol
Media Release

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For Immediate Release

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Alcohol Found in Trucker's Big Rig

On June 11, 2006 at approximately 7:00 PM, Mitchell E. Holland, of Sioux Falls South Dakota, was driving a 2001 Freightliner semi truck registered to MCT Transport of Sioux Falls South Dakota, pulling a trailer containing frozen meat, when he was pulled into the Ridgefield Port of Entry.

Commercial Vehicle Officer Kelly Tabor stopped the semi for a routine paperwork check. While contacting the driver, Officer Tabor noticed an open container of beer on the floor of the cab. During the inspection Officer Tabor also detected an odor of intoxicants coming from the driver. A voluntary portable breath test (PBT) was performed on Holland which revealed alcohol was present.

Officer Tabor requested that a trooper respond to further evaluate Mr. Mitchell and perform field sobriety tests (FST). Trooper Brian Forsberg responded to the scale only to have the driver refuse any further evaluations. Mitchell was subsequently arrested for DUI.

Following the arrest, a search of the semi cab revealed six additional unopened cans of beer. While Mitchell was in custody he stated he wanted to be taken to jail, and asked officers if he could take the rest of his beer with him.

Because of Mitchell's refusal to submit to a breath test, he could face a minimum one year suspension of his license.

In addition to this incident of alcohol, officers placed another driver out of service on June 12, 2006 at approximately 10:30 AM, after a breath test showed he too had alcohol in his system.

(A commercial driver is placed out of service for 24 hours for having any measurable amount of alcohol in his/her system. In addition, a driver with alcohol shown to be at .04 or more is considered DUI.)

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